

## **“That’s Not Our Problem”**

**Interviewee:** William Perry

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**Project:** William J. Clinton Presidential History

By spring 1994, American foreign policy decisions were substantially influenced by repercussions of the Battle of Mogadishu and subsequent exit of American troops from Somalia. Secretary of Defense William Perry describes how the Clinton administration had little appetite for military intervention when the Rwandan Civil War turned genocidal in April.

**William Perry:** I don’t know whether you’ve seen the movie Rwanda Hotel, which I think is a pretty accurate description of what happened there, but basically the UN, Europe, and the United States just said, “That’s not our problem.” I can say for a fact that there was no serious consideration at that time of sending American troops to Rwanda. This is just several months after we had pulled them out of Somalia. There would have been an explosion in Congress had the President decided he was going to send a battalion of troops to Rwanda, I’m quite confident. President Clinton has said in retrospect, now out of office, that one of his great regrets of the Presidency was not taking some action to try to stop the Rwanda massacre. But I can tell you there was no consideration.

*End of excerpt.*

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